

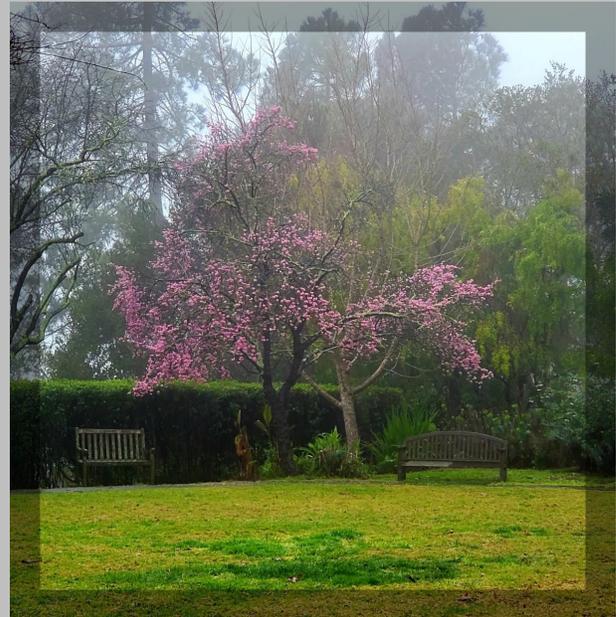
Kensington Police Protection & Community Service District

*Providing Police Protection,
Parks & Recreation, and
Waste Management Services*

GM Monthly Update - April 2021

Top Stories:

- Permanent Chief of Police Appointed
- KCC Donates \$15K to KPPCSD
- Community Warning System Exercise Announced
- Officer Resignation
- Community Center Sign Vandalized
- FY 2021-22 Budget Workshops Announced



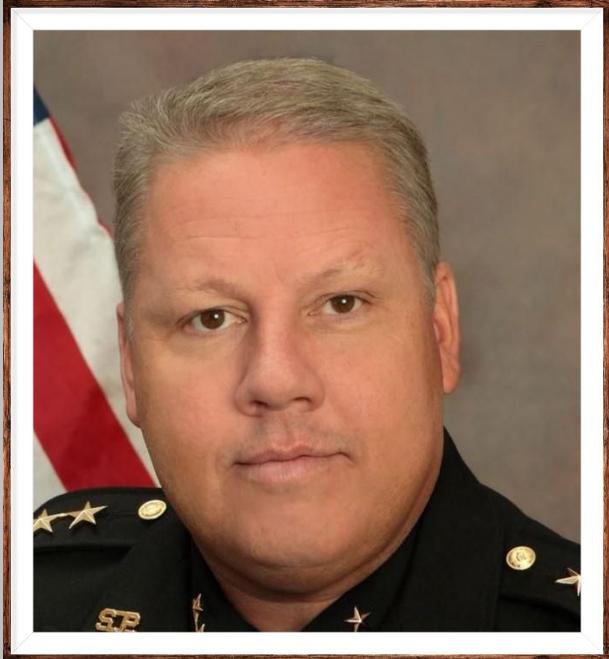
Spring in Kensington Park!

ADMINISTRATION

Permanent Chief of Police Appointed

Effective May 14, 2021 and after more than four years of Interim Police Chiefs, the Kensington Police Department (KPD) will have a new

permanent Chief of Police. Captain Mike Gancasz joined the KPD on January 18, 2021 and comes to the District with more than 20 years of experience in law enforcement including experience as a Commander.



Captain Gancasz supervised numerous units including Youth Education & Services, Code Enforcement, Gang, Traffic, and Detectives. He is a decorated homicide detective and has participated in numerous multi-agency high profile cases. Captain Gancasz has command level experience in the Patrol Division, Community Outreach Unit, Administration, Training, and Internal Affairs. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice Management and will be graduating with a Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership in 2021. He is a graduate of the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute and will graduate from the POST Command College, Class 67 in 2021.

Captain Gancasz will be officially sworn in as the KPD's new Chief of Police by outgoing Interim Chief of Police Walt Schuld at the KPPCSD Board meeting on May 13, 2021. Chief Schuld's last day with the District will also be May 13, 2021.

**Congratulations Captain Gancasz!
Thank you for your service Chief Schuld!**

POLICE

KPD Monthly Report - March 2021

Check out KPD's monthly report with analytics, community outreach, traffic, officer training and equipment, and upcoming events.

Kensington Police Department Monthly Report March 2021

Interim Chief Walt Schuld

- February Analytics
- Community Outreach
- Traffic Enforcement
- Officer Training & Equipment
- Upcoming Events

Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District



Community Warning System - Exercise

Kensington PD is working in conjunction with multiple agencies including Kensington/El Cerrito Fire Department, El Cerrito PD and personnel in charge of the Community Warning System to have a Virtual Evacuation Exercise on

Sunday, May 2, 2021 at 8 AM. This will not be a tabletop exercise but a live test through the Community Warning Alert system. KPD has advertised this drill on Nextdoor, Facebook, District Website, and Nixle. On the day of the test, all registered residents will receive a test alert and then be asked to take a quick survey with the link provided. If you have not yet signed up, please register online at www.cococws.us, by email at cws-staff@so.ccounty.us or by calling 925-655-0111.

A graphic titled "Test of the Community Warning System". It features logos for various agencies including the Kensington Police Department, El Cerrito Fire Department, and Contra Costa County. The graphic lists the test details: "Who, When & Where: Sunday, May 2nd at 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. Registered residents of El Cerrito and Kensington". It also lists "What will be tested: Phone Calls, Text Messages, Email" and "What will NOT be tested: Wireless Emergency Alerts, Emergency Alert System, NOAA Weather Radios". At the bottom, it says "What to do to receive the test alert and future emergency alerts: Register for the Community Warning System at www.CoCoCWS.us Save the CWS Caller ID in your phone: 925-655-0195". An illustration of a hand holding a smartphone is shown on the right side of the graphic.

Test of the
Community Warning System

Who, When & Where: Sunday, May 2nd at 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. Registered residents of El Cerrito and Kensington

What will be tested: Phone Calls, Text Messages, Email

What will NOT be tested: Wireless Emergency Alerts, Emergency Alert System, NOAA Weather Radios

What to do to receive the test alert and future emergency alerts:
▶ Register for the Community Warning System at www.CoCoCWS.us
▶ Save the CWS Caller ID in your phone: 925-655-0195

Officer Resignation

Effective Monday, April 19, Officer Juan Ramos resigned from the Kensington Police Department.

New Police Cars Deployed

In March, two new police vehicles were officially



deployed. The SUVs display a contemporary graphic design and enhanced LED lighting with intelligent technology. They include warranties and advanced hybrid powertrain offering additional fuel savings.

The Police Department was able to recycle and reuse many components from the decommissioned cars including the GETECH computers, gun locks and roadside equipment. The KPD is also updating and replenishing its patrol car medical kits to ensure adequate first aid is available in the vehicles when necessary.

New Commendation Policy

The KPD has implemented a new Commendation and Awards policy that honors and awards officers for their good work in the community. As a result, residents may observe officers donning a recently received award ribbon on their uniforms. Hopefully, the visible award will also spur conversation and dialogue between officers and residents.



Officer of the Year



Leadership



Chief's Commendation

Traffic & Safety

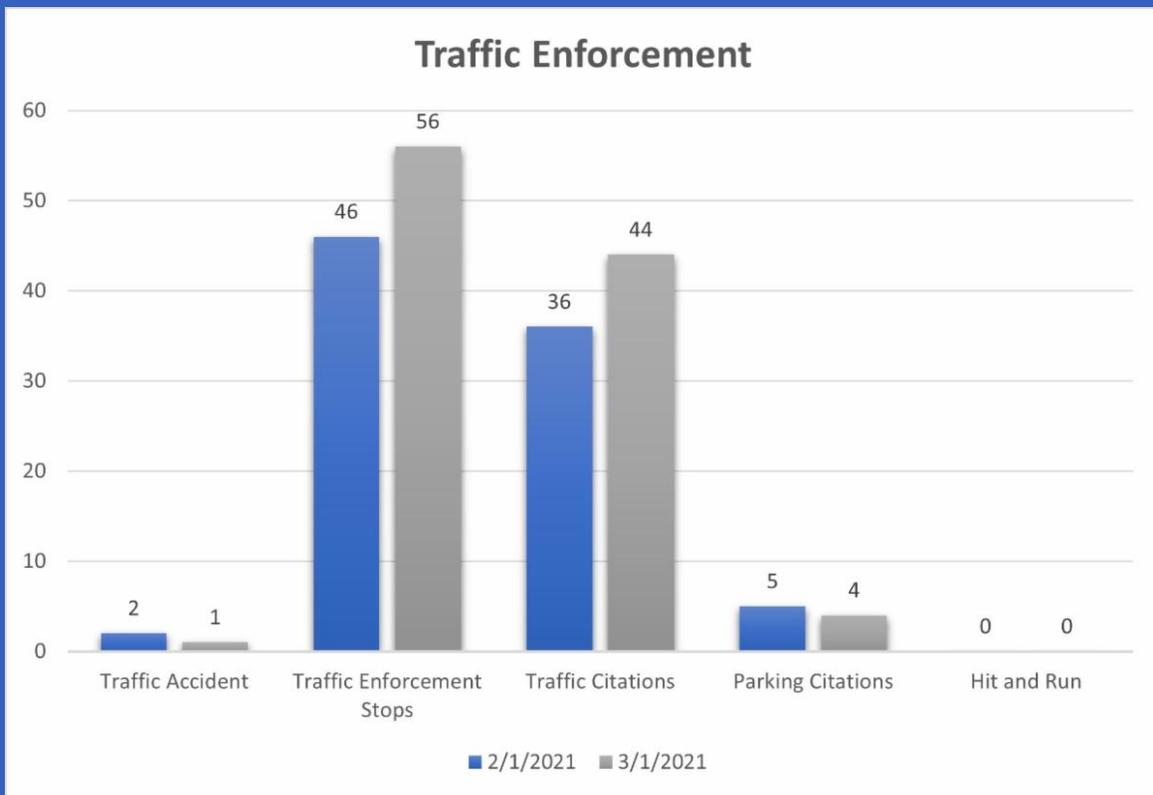
The police department ordered new batteries for the district's fixed radar signs. Due to delays in the chain of supply (e.g., Covid 19), it will be a few more weeks before they arrive and the radar sign can be re-deployed.



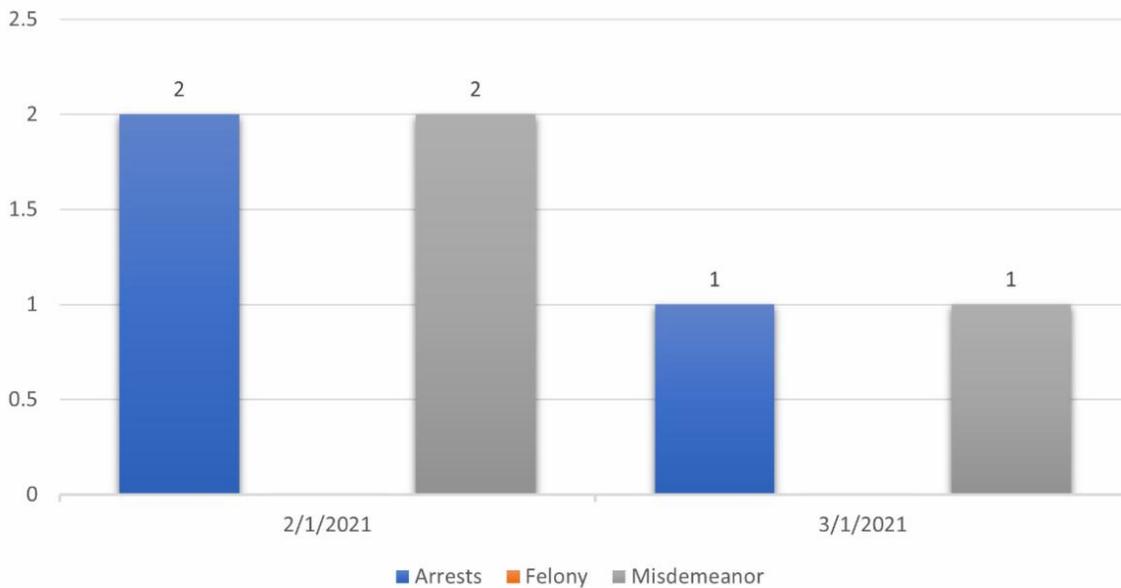
March/April Police Log - Weekly Updates

[Check out the Police Department's weekly police log for regular updates on police activity in the district.](#)

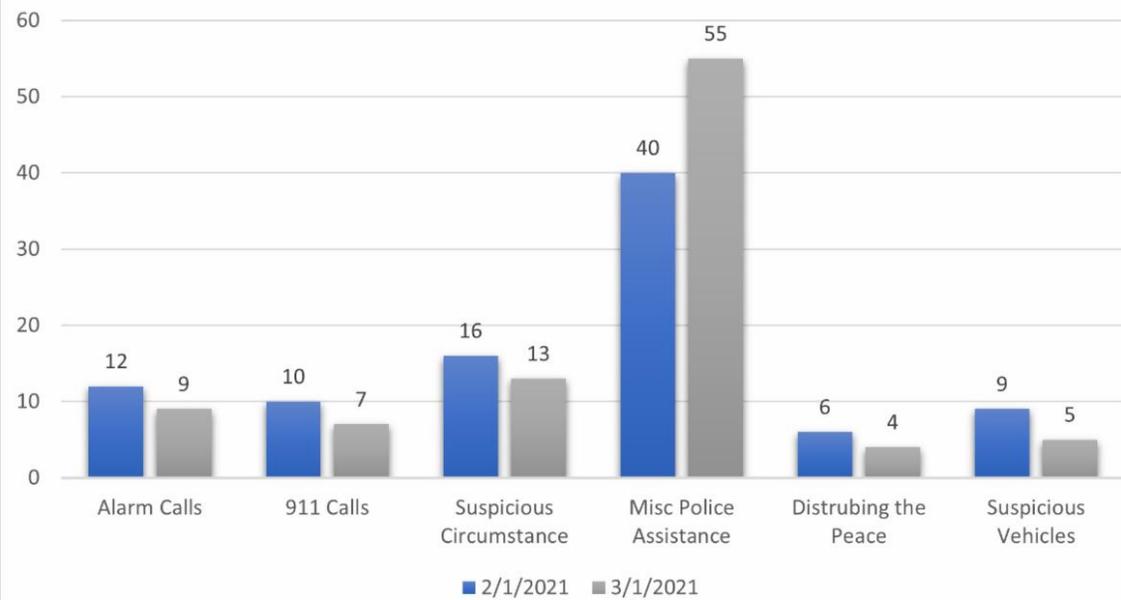
Police Department Activity



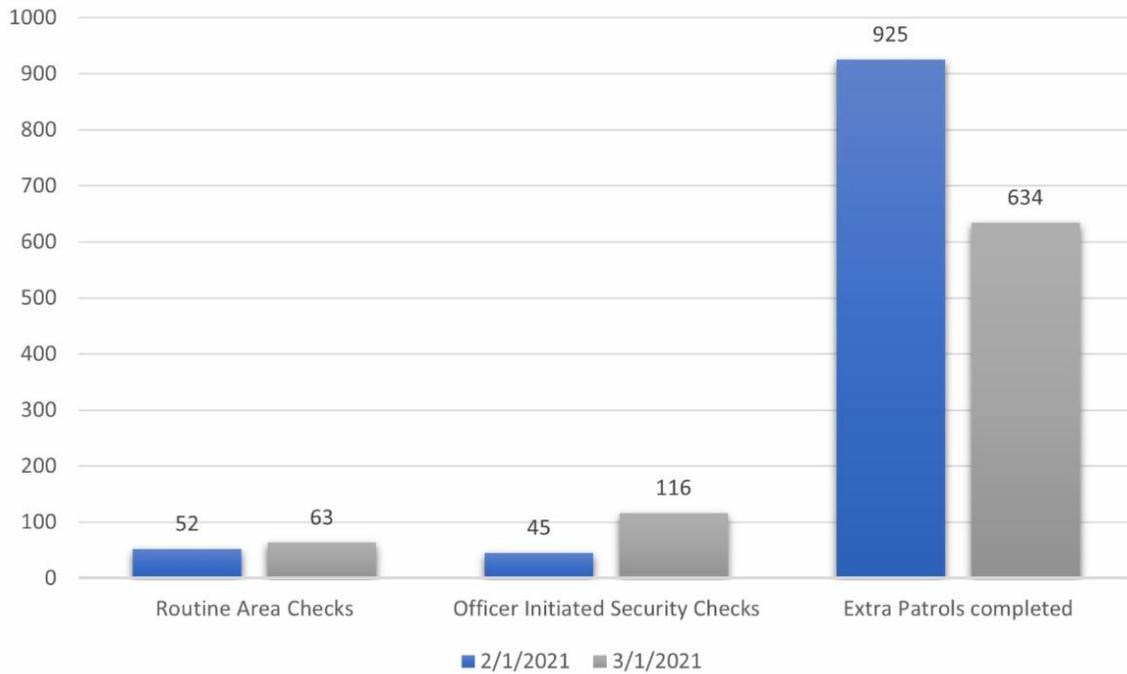
Investigations & Arrests



Patrol Incidents



Extra Patrols



PARKS & RECREATION

KCC \$15,000 Donation

On April 13 and on behalf of the KPPCSD Board of Directors, President Hacaj accepted a \$15,000 donation from the KCC Board of Directors to the KPPCSD for landscape improvements around the community center (which was also included as an action item on the KPPCSD's April Board meeting agenda). The following photo will also appear in the May or June edition of the Outlook. **Big thank you to KCC for their generous donation!**



Eucalyptus Tree Removal on the Arlington

On Monday, March 22, three Eucalyptus trees were removed on the Arlington south of the library and in the park. The first tree was called in by several residents in the prior weeks. However, it took more time than expected to secure qualified bids, an encroachment permit and receive a County approved traffic plan in order to schedule the removal. Upon removal of the tree, it was discovered that two more immediately adjacent trees (to the original tree) had exposed roots and it was quickly determined that they too would be potentially very dangerous in a storm event. As a result, they were also removed.



Fire Prevention and Preparedness

As the following article indicates ([California braces for extreme 2021 wildfire season – it's very dry out there](#)), fire season may be even worse this year than it was last. As a result, District staff are preparing a plan and budget to remove all dead trees, branches and undergrowth in the park as soon as possible. Staff is currently surveying the entire park to ensure fire safety and any potential fire risks be proactively mitigated. In addition, staff will start reaching out to the East Bay Regional Parks District, as well as KFPD, to coordinate efforts.

Community Center Sign Vandalized



As many community members are aware, the Community Center signage was recently vandalized and several letters in the sign on the building were removed. All but one was discovered in the bushes below the mounted

signage. The letters that were found have been sent to the County Sheriff's Department for fingerprinting. In addition, The Project Manager is working directly with contractors to repair the lettering on the building as quickly as possible.

Kensington Community Center Remains Closed

Due to the ongoing public health and safety concerns of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Kensington Community Center will remain closed. KPPCSD continues to monitor County and State guidelines for the latest and most up-to-date guidance and will continue to do so in the hopes of re-opening soon. The community will continue to be updated as guidelines change.

FINANCE

FY 2021-22 Budget

With a completed 2019-2020 Audit, staff has begun working on next year's budget and started internal discussions with Police Department and Parks and Recreation staff. Proposed upcoming budget meetings are as follows:

- Thursday, June 10, Regular Board Meeting – First Public Budget Workshop;
- Thursday, June 17, Public Budget Workshop (facilitated by staff); and
- Meeting for final Board approval of the budget to be determined.

FY 2019-20 Audit

The FY 2019-20 Audit is complete, approved and now available to review on the [District's website](#). Check it out!

Monthly Financials - January and February 2021

If you missed the April 8, 2021 Board meeting and would like to review more District financials, check out the [January and February 2021 Financial Reports](#).

Kensington Police Protection And Community Service District
217 Arlington Avenue,
Kensington CA 94707
(510) 526-4141



Share



Tweet



Share

[Contact Us](#)